

Melinda S. Gehris
Hess Gehris Solutions
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DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE:

HESS GEHRIS SOLUTIONS
Principal

Bow, New Hampshire
May 2008 – Present

Serve as neutral for mediation, neutral evaluation and arbitration. Act as neutral in hundreds of disputes, privately and through the New Hampshire Probate and Superior Courts and New Hampshire Federal District Court as well as the Human Rights Commission and EEOC. Develop and lead half-day and multi-day basic and advanced training for mediators, neutral evaluators and advocates. Provide conflict management counseling and training for work groups. Facilitate retreats and workshops for boards of directors and non-profit volunteers. Coach individuals and work groups in conflict resolution.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

DEVINE, MILLIMET & BRANCH, P.A.,
Associate, Litigation Department
Shareholder, Litigation Department

Concord, New Hampshire
July 1994 - December 1999
January 2000 – April 2008

Chaired Insurance Law Practice Group of full service regional law firm with over 70 attorneys. Managed caseload with emphasis on coverage analysis and coverage litigation, including automobile, homeowners, general liability, environmental and directors and officers, employers liability and health and disability claims. Represented clients in arbitration proceedings and served as arbitrator. Experienced in all facets of state and federal litigation including management and resolution of cases from fact investigation and claim analysis through drafting pleadings, conducting written discovery and depositions, mediation, preparing and arguing dispositive motions and conducting bench and jury trials. Briefed and argued cases for New Hampshire Supreme Court and federal courts. Specialized in alternate dispute resolution, serving as a neutral for disputing parties. Responsible for many clients and oversee associates work for those clients.

MORRISON, MAHONEY & MILLER, Boston, Massachusetts
Associate

September 1991 - May 1994

Responsible for interpretation of liability insurance policies, analysis of coverage issues and preparation of coverage opinions with a concentration in environmental coverage cases. Represented domestic and international insurers in coverage disputes and litigation. Directly involved in numerous continuing multi-party, multi-state litigation cases. Personally handled all aspects of various types of civil litigation including discovery and depositions.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Senior Claims Representative

January 1986 - August 1988

EDUCATION:

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, Boston, Massachusetts
Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution, 2001

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Boston, Massachusetts
J.D. 1991

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE, Reading, Pennsylvania
B.S. Business Administration/Spanish, 1985

CERTIFICATIONS: New Hampshire Certified Family Mediator

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, United States District Courts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, First Circuit Court of Appeals, United States Supreme Court

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Board Member and Past-President – New Hampshire Conflict Resolution Association; Past-President and Treasurer of New England Chapter of Association for Conflict Resolution; Vice-Chair of the Dispute Resolution Committee of the New Hampshire Bar Association; Member Dispute Resolution Section of New Hampshire Bar Association; Member Association for Conflict Resolution

EDUCATIONAL FACULTY:

Adjunct Professor – Franklin Pierce Law Center, Concord, New Hampshire

SELECTED SEMINARS:

New Hampshire Insurance Adjustors Association Continuing Education Conference, Presenter; Lorman Education Services New Hampshire Insurance Law, Faculty; New Hampshire Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Workplace Violence; Risks, Responsibilities and Safety Tips, New Hampshire Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Emerging Litigation Issues in Year 2000; NBI Directors & Officers Insurance Coverage; New Hampshire Supreme Court Advance Rule 170 Mediator Training; New Hampshire Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Representing Clients in Civil Mediation ; New Hampshire Bar Association Federal Practice Section Training on Mediation; New Hampshire Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Small Business Counsel Symposium; NHBA Barriers to Settlement in Mediation; NHCRA Barriers to Settlement in Mediation, Process Obstacles; NEACR Barriers to Settlement in Mediation; Martha's Vineyard Mediation Association Barriers to Settlement in Mediation; Civil Mediation Training; Mediating Workplace Conflict; Advanced Ethical Issues for Mediators; Practical Skills for Mediators; Dealing with Third Parties and Guests in Mediation; Mediator Bias – Myth or Reality?

PUBLICATIONS:

Good Mediators Don't Ignore Emotion, N.H. Bar Journal, Summer 2006, Vol. 46, No. 2

"What Attorneys Need to Know About Mediation Credentialing and Training", Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly (July 24, 2006)

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Named Top Attorney in Dispute Resolution in New Hampshire by Business New Hampshire Magazine 2010
- Recognized in Woodward & White's *Best Lawyers in America*® since 2007 in the practice of Alternative Dispute Resolution